

Story 2107 (1999 Tape 2)

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kaza, Denizli
Province

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Temel¹ Adjusts His Medical Prognosis

One day Temel felt very ill. He decided that the best thing to do was to go and see a doctor. The doctor gave him a thorough examination. He analyzed Temel's blood, took X-rays, and did several other tests. When the doctor had completed his diagnosis, he said, "Temel, I am sorry to tell you that you have a very serious disease

"What is it, doctor?"

"I regret to tell you that you do not have very much time left in this world. You will live only for another three to six months. You have cancer."

Temel answered, "So what? If that is the will of Allah, there is nothing that I can do about it. If I am to die, I shall die." He said good-bye to the doctor and left the clinic.

¹In tales about the stereotyped Laz as dummer or fool the male characters usually have one or another of five or six very common Laz names. Temel is the name used most often, with Dursun in second place. Thus if either of these names occurs in a folktale, the audience knows at once that it is a Laz tale.

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Temel went directly to the coffeehouse and said to his friends there, "I want you to know that I have AIDS."

Everyone gave him a slight smile but was actually sorry for him. They knew that he would die, for AIDS at that time always seemed to be a fatal illness.

Time passed--one month, two months, three months--and Temel was still alive. During this time the doctor heard that Temel was telling people that he had AIDS and that he would die within six months. Surprised, the doctor sent word to Temel to come to his clinic again. Wondering if something new had developed, Temel went to the clinic immediately.

The doctor said to him, "Hey, there, brother Temel! When you came here two or three months ago, what did I tell you? Did I tell you that you had AIDS or cancer? Who has made a mistake about this--you or I? What is going on here?"

Temel answered, "No, no, doctor! You did not tell me anything that was incorrect. You said that I had cancer. You also told me that I had no more than six months to live."

"Well, if that is the case, why are you telling people

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that you have AIDS? I have been hearing about this incorrect information for several days. I have been deeply worried that I might have misinformed you."

"Don't worry about that, my doctor, my two eyes! I said that I had AIDS because after I die, I do not want anyone to be making love to my Fadime!"